

WINTER 2013

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH



Solid financial standing allows Township to refinance debt and save almost \$2 million!

9955 N. Haggerty Road
Plymouth, MI 48170-4873
www.plymouthtwp.org

Important Phone Numbers:

Supervisor
734-354-3201

Treasurer
734-354-3214

Clerk
734-354-3224

Assessing
734-354-3267

Building
734-354-3210

Fire (non-emergency)
734-354-3221

Police Admin./Records
734-354-3232

Water Dept.
734-354-3270

Just like you may have refinanced your mortgage to reduce your monthly payments, the Township recently refinanced roughly \$13 million in debt in order to cut costs and save taxpayers money. Refinancing this debt did not reduce the length of the payments, but did save taxpayer money by allowing the Township to borrow money at lower interest rates.

Roughly ten years ago, the original 20-year bonds were sold to pay for the Western Townships Utilities Authority (WTUA) infrastructure work. WTUA members include Canton, Plymouth and Northville Townships, with responsibility for providing sanitary sewage and treatment services. The bonds were originally financed at just over 4%, but after refinancing the rate is now only 2.02%. The savings on the interest will be roughly \$1.8 million spread over the next ten years.

The Township recently refinanced roughly \$13 million in debt in order to cut costs and save taxpayers money.

What helped open the door to these savings was the Township's recent high bond rating provided by financial reporting company Standard & Poor's (see the article on the back page for more details). The Township was awarded 'AA' rating; one of the highest ratings in Michigan. S&P mentioned two significant factors in awarding this rating, "...the recent stabilization in tax base values and a demonstrated ability to adjust the budget in response to adverse revenue conditions."

This favorable bond rating means the Township was able to take advantage of other refinancing opportunities to lower interest rates and provide savings that

go straight to the bottom line. For example, this past November the Township refinanced \$4.55 million worth of debt, which saved taxpayers \$345,000.

If you have any comments or questions regarding the debt refinance or any other Township financial matters, we encourage you to contact Plymouth Township at (734) 354-3214.



Aerial view of Western Township Utilities Authority

Charter Township of Plymouth

COMMUNITY NEWS/UPDATES

Get Involved!

We are all proud to be a part of the Plymouth Township community and it is a reason the township is consistently ranked among the most popular places to live in the United States. You can help make it even better by taking an active role in the community. We encourage you to volunteer for community service and participate in local government to help keep Plymouth Township a great place to live, work and play!

Go digital...subscribe to Plymouth Township E-news!

If you would like to stay up to date on all the latest Township news and information, we encourage you to subscribe to our E-news and email notifications. Just visit the Township website, www.plymouthtp.org, scroll over the "Reference Desk" tab, click "Mailing List", and enter your email address to be included on the Plymouth Township E-news distribution list.

Water-Sewer Line Repair Mail Solicitations

You may be seeing solicitations in the mail from various companies offering you insurance coverage on the water or sewer lines running through your property. These lines run from your home or business to the Township main water and sewer lines. To help you make an informed decision, there are a few points we would like to make regarding these solicitations::

- Homeowners are responsible for water and sewer lines running through their property
- In some cases, wear and tear may cause water line leaks, but this rarely occurs
- Plymouth Township does not endorse any company soliciting these services
- Township officials are well aware of these solicitations, and they are legal
- Residents should use "buyer beware" common sense in regarding these and any other types of unsolicited offers

If you have any questions, concerns or comments please feel free to contact the Department of Public Services at (734) 354-3270 ext. # 3.

Pay your property taxes now!

The last day to pay Summer or Winter 2012 taxes (with penalty) at Township Hall is Thursday, February 28. Taxes may be paid at the Township Hall counter Monday-Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm and after hours payments may be placed in the drop box located in the circular drive in front of Township Hall.

Beginning March 1, 2013 all 2012 tax payments with penalty must be made at the Wayne County Treasurer's Office, 400 Monroe St., 5th Floor, Detroit, MI 48226, 313-224-5990.



DID YOU KNOW ?

Plymouth Township residents can rent park picnic shelters. The shelters available include three in Plymouth Township Park (one with a food prep/storage area) and one in the Lake Pointe Soccer Park. Reservations for residents are on a first-come, first serve basis at the Division of Public Services, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd from 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. Non-Township residents can begin making park picnic shelter reservations on April 1, 2013.

IMPORTANT NEWS ON WATER RATES

While Plymouth Township officials are committed to providing the highest level of services at the lowest possible cost, price increases are inevitable, and often out of our control. To keep you informed, we want to let you know we have been notified by the Detroit Water and Sewage Department (DWSD) of a proposed 16.2% water rate increase. Township officials immediately initiated communication with DWSD and were able to lower the increase from 16.2% to 13.8%.

Minimizing the increase, and still the area's lowest water rates

In prior years where there was a rate increase, the Township has only passed on a portion of that to water users. Once again this year, we will be proposing that only a portion of the 13.8% increase be passed along to consumers. Even with an increase, Plymouth Township will still have the lowest water and sewer rates in the area (see chart below for details). The increase will NOT apply to your entire water bill, as rates are only going up on variable line items, not the fixed cost items.

Current Water and Sewer Rates per 1,000 gallons			
	Water	Sewer	Total
Plymouth Township	\$3.35	\$5.25	\$8.60
City of Northville	\$5.23	\$4.48	\$9.71
Northville Township	\$5.19	\$4.82	\$10.01
Canton Township	\$3.90	\$6.23	\$10.13
City of Plymouth	\$4.67	\$6.04	\$10.71

Residents lower peak time usage, business peak time usage still high

Township homeowners have shifted their water usage more towards off peak hours of 12 to 6 (12 midnight - 6 am and 12 noon - 6 pm). However, Township businesses continue to show heavy water usage during peak hours. The system was operating at peak loads, which triggered immediate investment in new infrastructure. The Township recently invested \$500,000 in water system improvements due mainly to heavy peak time users.

Rate structure based on peak time usage

Moving forward, Plymouth Township is evaluating a rate structure that will be equitable for all customers – low peak time and high peak time users. If any new investments need to be made, we believe it is only fair those costs be assigned to the heaviest peak time users.

As always, we encourage everyone to pay close attention to their water usage, especially the time of day. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call us (734) 354-3270, or visit us at the Township Offices, located at 9955 N. Haggerty Rd.

Charter Township of Plymouth

IMPORTANT Homeowner Notice of Assessment Information

When does the Notice of Assessment, Taxable “Valuation” get mailed?

Notice of Assessment forms are mailed annually at the end of February. If you do not receive the Notice by February 28, please call the Assessing Department at 734-354-3267.

What is Taxable Value – Line #1?

Your Current Amount Year 2013 Taxable Value is the lesser of

- Capped Value based upon inflation or
- Amount from Assessed Value line #2 / State Equalized Value line #4.

What is the formula for Capped Value the limit based upon Inflation?

Capped Value equals your Prior Amount Year 2012 Taxable Value x 1.024 = 2013 Capped Value. 2.4% is the 2013 Inflation Rate Multiplier for Michigan.

Losses or Additions would also be calculated if appropriate. Losses are considered to be physical losses to the property. Additions are considered to be physical additions to the property.

What is the limit based upon Assessed Value Line #2 / State Equalized Value Line #4?

Assessed Value and State Equalized Value (SEV) represent 50% of Market Value based upon sales studies.

Where can I review a copy of the sales study?

A copy is available at the Assessing Department counter in Township Hall if you would like to review real estate sales in your neighborhood.

When can I appeal my assessment?

By law, the only time you may appeal your residential assessment is at the March Board of Review which consists of 3 citizens from the township. The Notice of Assessment will indicate the dates and the phone number to call for appointments. A petition form will be required and is available at the Assessing Department counter or on the Township web site under Quick Links – Board of Review.

Can I appeal by letter?

Property owners may appeal to the March Board of Review by letter, with a petition form, which must be received by close of business Monday, March 25.

Can I appeal the March Board of Reviews Decision?

Yes. Assessments reviewed by the Board of Review can be appealed to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. The appeal deadline for residential properties is July 31st.

If you have any questions, please call the Plymouth Township Assessing Department at (734) 354-3267 between 8 am and 4:30 pm.



HOW TO READ YOUR ASSESSMENT NOTICE

Every year you will receive a form like this, indicating changes in the assessed value and the taxable value of your property. The numbers give you an idea of how much this property could sell for and how much of that value you will pay taxes on.

If this is not a tax bill, what is it?

Your assessment notice is just that – a notice. It indicates what the assessor determines your property is worth and how much of that value is taxable. It does not indicate what your taxes will be for this year.

Why your assessment changed

The assessor recalculates the value of your property every year, and these lines give a general explanation of why assessments change. Even if you have not made any changes to your property in the past year, your assessment will likely still change to reflect the current real estate market. Your assessment can also change based upon physical additions or physical losses to your property.

What your house is worth and how much of it you will pay taxes on

The most important figure on this notice is the taxable value of your property for this year. Change In Value represents the change in taxable “value”, plus or minus, it does not represent a tax dollar figure. Tax bills will be calculated by multiplying your Current Amount Year 2013 taxable value by the millage rate.

Are you saving as much as you can?

If this property is your primary residence, it should qualify for an exemption that would save a significant amount on your taxes. If the exemption has been filed your notice will say your home is 100-percent exempt as a “principal residence.”

Michigan Department of Treasury, STC 1019 (Rev. 1-08) This form is issued under the authority of P.A. 206 of 1893, Sec. 211.24 (c), as amended. This is a model assessment notice to be used by the local assessor. L-4400

Notice of Assessment, Taxable Valuation, and Property Classification

FROM: PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP ASSESSING DEPARTMENT
9955 N HAGGERTY RD
PLYMOUTH, MI 48170

THIS IS NOT A TAX BILL

NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER OR PERSON NAMED ON ASSESSMENT ROLL: _____
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION: (Parcel Code required. Property address and legal description optional): _____

THIS PROPERTY IS CLASSIFIED AS: 401 (RESIDENTIAL)

PRIOR YEAR'S CLASSIFICATION IF DIFFERENT: _____

Prior to 1995, your taxes were calculated on State Equalized Value (see line 4 below). State Equalized Value (SEV) is the Assessed Value multiplied by the Equalization Factor, if any (see line 3 below). State Equalized Value must approximate 50% of market value. Starting in 1995, your property taxes were calculated on Taxable Values (see line 1 below). Proposal A, which was passed by the voters on March 15, 1994, places a limit on the value used to compute property taxes. If there is a number entered in the "Change In Value" column at the right side of the Taxable Value line, that number is not your change in taxes, it represents the change in Taxable Value.

IF THERE WAS NOT A TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP ON YOUR PROPERTY in 2012, your 2013 Taxable Value is calculated by multiplying your 2012 Taxable Value (see line 1 below) by 1.024 (which is the Inflation Rate Multiplier for the current year established by the State of Michigan). Physical changes in your property may also increase or decrease your Taxable Value. Your 2013 Taxable Value cannot be higher than your 2013 State Equalized Value.

IF THERE WAS A TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP ON YOUR PROPERTY in 2012, your Taxable Value in 2013 will be the same as your 2013 State Equalized Value. Please see line 5 below regarding Transfer of Ownership on your property.

	PRIOR AMOUNT YEAR: 2012	CURRENT AMOUNT YEAR: 2013	CHANGE IN VALUE
1. TAXABLE VALUE (Current amount is tentative):	110,120	112,760	2,640
2. ASSESSED VALUE:	110,120	113,250	3,130
3. TENTATIVE EQUALIZATION FACTOR: 1.000			
4. STATE EQUALIZED VALUE (Current amount is tentative):	110,120	113,250	3,130
5. There WAS/WAS NOT a transfer of ownership on this property in 2012. WAS NOT			

A nonresident may protest to the Board of Review by letter. Letter appeals are to be accompanied by a completed Board of Review petition form (L-4035 approved by the State Tax Commission or an alternate petition form used by the local unit of government). The local unit petition form is available at the Plymouth Township website www.plymouthtwp.org and under Quick Links find **Board of Review**. If you believe that these values, the property classification or the information on line 5 is not correct you may protest to the Local Board of Review, which meets at 9955 Haggerty Rd. If you wish to appear before the Board of Review, an appointment is necessary, except on Saturday, March 16 which are walk-in hearings and are on a first-come, first-served basis. Appeals by mail will be accepted if received by 4:30 pm on March 25, 2013. Phone 734-354-3269 for an appointment.

YOUR ASSESSMENT CHANGED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:
BOARD OF REVIEW MEETS ON MONDAY MARCH 11 (2 PM TO 5 PM & 6 PM TO 9 PM)***WEDNESDAY MARCH 13 (9 AM TO NOON & 2 PM TO 5 PM)
THURSDAY MARCH 14 (9 AM TO NOON)WALK-INS ONLY ON SATURDAY MARCH 16 (9 AM TO 11 AM)

% Exempt As "Homeowners Principal Residence": 100.00 %
% Exempt As "Qualified Agricultural Property": 0.00 %
Exempt As "Qualified Forest Property": Yes No

The denial of an exemption from the local school operating tax for "qualified agricultural properties" may be appealed to the local Board of Review. The denial of an exemption from the local school operating tax for a "homeowner's principal residence" may be appealed to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

Protest at the Board of Review is necessary to protect your right to further appeals to the Michigan Tax Tribunal for valuation and exemption appeals and the State Tax Commission for classification appeals. Properties classified Commercial Real, Industrial Real or Developmental Real may be appealed to the regular March Board of Review or to the Michigan Tax Tribunal prior to May 31. Commercial Personal, Industrial Personal, or Utility Personal Property may be appealed to the regular March Board of Review or to the Michigan Tax Tribunal prior to May 31 if a personal property statement was filed with the local unit prior to the commencement of the Board of Review as provided by MCL 211.19.

HOMEOWNER'S PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE AFFIDAVIT INFORMATION PA 114 OF 2012. If you purchased your principal residence after May 31 last year you are required to file an affidavit by May 31 this year to claim the principal residence exemption for this summer's tax levy and all subsequent tax levies.

Charter Township of Plymouth



LET'S TALK TRASH!

Trash collection on snow days

Even if school is cancelled due to winter storms, trash and recycling trucks will usually complete their routes on the scheduled day. However if there is a snow emergency and collection is not completed on the scheduled day, your collection will be completed as early as 7 am the following day. Feel free to contact the Solid Waste Department at (734) 354-3270 if you have any questions about scheduled trash collection days.

No yard waste collection mid-January, February and March

You never know what the weather will have in store for us, but please remember there is no yard waste collection mid-January through March. For those two and one-half months you will need to store any yard waste you collect on your property. Curbside yard waste will resume on Monday, April 1.

Since you cannot put yard waste out to the curb until April you may want to consider backyard composting. Compost, also known as "gardeners gold", can lead to greener lawns and fuller gardens. There are many ways to compost from purchased containers to homemade containers or simply by storing it in a corner of your backyard. For ideas, visit the Plymouth District Library or websites such as www.composting101.com or www.homecompostingmadeeasy.com.

Recycling saves money...and does a world of good!

Recycling not only is good for the environment it also helps us save money. Our recycled materials are sent to a single-stream facility that is beneficial for the environment. Recycling can conserve our natural resources and also helps minimize harmful pollutants. The material sent for recycling is diverted from our landfills where they charge a collection fee based upon weight. Last year Plymouth Township residents recycled nearly 2,000 tons instead of sending it to the landfill. The energy saved was also enough to power 271 homes for one full year.

If you are not recycling yet or you need additional recycling containers, contact the Solid Waste Department at (734) 354-3270. Below is a partial list of what can be recycled:

- Aerosol cans
- Corrugated cardboard
- Household batteries
- Junk mail, magazines, phone books
- Plastic shopping bags
- Plastic labeled 1-7
- Brown, green or clear glass

For more information on recycling, visit www.plymouthtp.org and on **Division of Public Services** then click **Fact Sheets** to find Guide 22 Curbside Recycling

6

**DID YOU
KNOW ?**

Plymouth Township is one of the leading communities diverting waste from landfills to recycling centers and compost facilities!

WATER WISE

Now that winter is here, it is time to think about environmentally-friendly ways to control ice

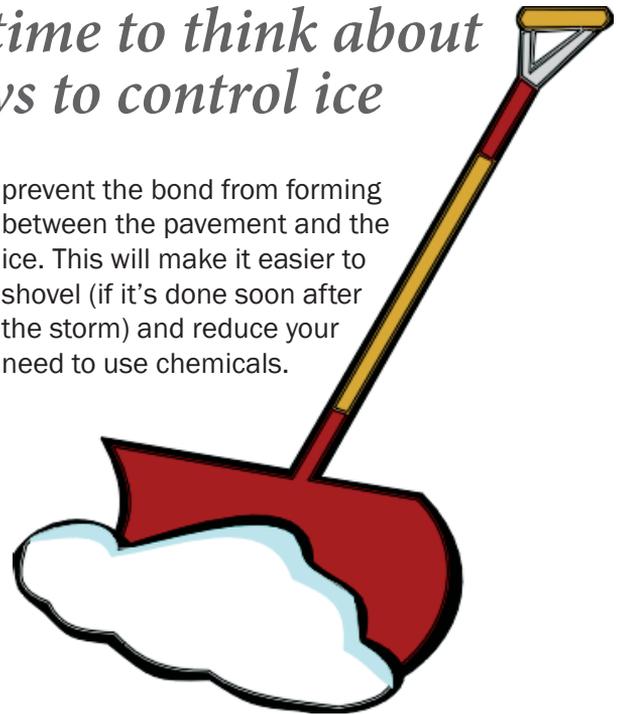
Traction Agents – help prevent slipping on ice, but do not melt it. Sand, kitty litter, and ashes can hurt vegetation, clog sewers, and degrade aquatic habitats.

Deicers – lower the melting point of ice to help remove ice and snow from pavement.

1. Sodium chloride (rock salt) is the most common product because it's effective & cheap. On the other hand, it is highly corrosive and ecologically damaging.
2. Calcium chloride is very effective (even at very low temperatures), but more expensive than rock salt. Because it is so effective, much less chemical can be applied making it more environmentally friendly than rock salt.
3. Potassium chloride and urea are both fertilizers that can harm vegetation if they are overused. They are more expensive, but not as corrosive as rock salt.
4. Magnesium chloride is much like calcium chloride, but the application rate has to be twice as much because it is only 48% active.
5. Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) is less problematic for soils, vegetation, water supplies, and concrete. It is non-corrosive but more expensive when compared to rock salt.
6. Potassium acetate is a reliable choice for smaller areas. It is a biodegradable liquid deicer with good ice melting capacity.
7. Corn-based liquid concentrates are emerging, primarily for roadway use and are applied as a spray.

Deicers become “Anti-icers” when they are applied as soon as the snowy or icy conditions appear; they help

prevent the bond from forming between the pavement and the ice. This will make it easier to shovel (if it's done soon after the storm) and reduce your need to use chemicals.



Here are some other things to keep in mind:

- Some de-icers are significant sources of phosphorous pollution. Excess phosphorous is the nutrient that boosts unwanted plant growth in lakes. Look for products that contain 50 parts per million or less of phosphorous.
- Over application of the chemical does not eliminate the need to shovel...it only means more destructive chemicals get into our waterways. Pellets are generally more effective at penetrating ice than flakes.

What are the water-friendly picks? Try cracked corn as a traction agent until you can physically remove ice. If deicing is important and within your budget, try a CMA product that is low in phosphorous and use only the recommended amount. Watch for low-phosphorous, corn-based liquid concentrates to become available on the residential market.

Charter Township of Plymouth

2013 Dog License Application and Procedures

To control rabies, the Plymouth Township ordinance requires every dog to have a license. All dog licenses expire on December 31. You can renew your dog license by simply bringing in a proof of current rabies vaccination to the Township's Treasurer's Office along with a \$5 license fee (\$7 after May 31st).

You also have the option of mailing an application, along with a copy of the rabies vaccination and a check for \$5 (\$7 after May 31st) to the Charter Township of Plymouth, Treasurer's Office, PO Box 8040, Plymouth, Michigan 48170. You will receive your new license and dog tag in one week. We will return your vaccination form. You can also visit our website at www.plymouthtwp.org, then go to the Dog License Application in the Forms and Permits section of the site.

The Charter Township of Plymouth Dog License Application

Owner's Information

Full Name (First Name) _____ (Middle Initial) _____ (Last Name) _____

Street Address (Street and Number) _____ Plymouth, MI 48170

Phone Number (Home) _____

Dog's Information

Dog's Name _____

Breed _____ Color _____

Birth Year _____ Sex (circle one) Male Female

Have you included the rabies vaccination form? We will return it with your license.

Public Act 551 requires the Township Treasurer to provide information to dog owners regarding the following:

- 1) The availability of microchip implant and registration for dogs by a licensed veterinarian, and animal control shelter or an animal protective shelter.
- 2) The availability of a statewide tattoo identification registry for dogs maintained by the State Department of Agriculture.

In regards to the microchip implantation and registration, you may contact either of the following two veterinarians located in Plymouth Township.

Parkway Veterinary Clinic, 41395 Wilcox, Plymouth MI 48170, 734-453-2577

Sheldon Veterinary Hospital, 9460 Sheldon Rd. Plymouth, MI 48170, 734-454-5580

If you have any questions, please feel free to call (734) 354-3215



Meet your new Township Clerk... **Nancy Conzelman**



Nancy Conzelman
Plymouth Township Clerk

As the newest member of Plymouth Township's elected management team, I am looking forward to continuing the momentum that landed Plymouth Township on the list of "100 Best Places to Live". In my role as Clerk I am committed to providing the highest level of service to Township residents and businesses, and making every contact with my office as positive and streamlined as possible.

To give you a little information about my background. I have a Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a Law degree from Wayne State University. After serving as a Federal Law Clerk, I practiced law "in-house" for 19 years at an automotive supplier, where I was Vice President and Chief Counsel. I have lived in the Township for 20 years with my husband and three sons and could not imagine a better community in which to raise a family.

One of the most visible responsibilities of a township clerk is election administration which includes everything from managing the database of registered voters to staging each and every election. Less visible to residents, but equally important is the Clerk's state-designated financial responsibilities. This includes Township accounts payable, maintaining the general ledger and preparing financial statements. The Clerk's office is also the official recordkeeper of all township books and records including meeting minutes, ordinances, contracts, etc. In addition to the responsibilities prescribed by law my office handles Freedom of Information Act requests and is a Passport Acceptance Facility.

If you call or visit my office you will probably meet Michelle Lozier, Plymouth Township's Deputy Clerk. While Michelle is new to the Clerk's office, she is not new to Township Hall, having worked in the Treasurer's office for the past seven years. Michelle's background combined with a capable and experienced team already in place, I have hit the ground running and look forward to a very productive term.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me by phone at (734) 354-3224 or email at nconzelman@plymouthtp.org.

Charter Township of Plymouth

PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS AND UPDATE

Your safety is our highest priority, so we feel it's important to share the latest news and developments in the Fire and Police departments. Township officials often hear directly from residents and we encourage an "open door" policy. Recently, we've heard some questions quite frequently and would like share a few of those in a Q&A format.

Question: There were some Fire/EMS staffing and service area changes made last year. I heard response times have increased, specifically in the Lake Point area where Fire Station #2 was closed. Is that true?

Answer: After almost a year in operation, the new streamlined Fire and EMS Department continues to perform at a very efficient level. We have a minimum of four full-time Firefighter/Paramedics on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and two part time Firefighters on duty Monday through Friday from 8 am until 8 pm, which is when 67% of all Fire and EMS runs occur. We are pleased to report that response times Township-wide continue to be in the four minute and twenty second to four minute and forty second timeframe.

Prior to the Fire Department reorganization, the average private Huron Valley Ambulance (HVA) response time was five minutes

and thirty-two seconds to the Lake Pointe area. Since the Lake Pointe area Fire Station closed and the private HVA ambulance was repositioned to Lake Pointe, response times in that area have improved to four minutes and fifteen seconds.

Question: An 8 am to 8 pm schedule doesn't seem to make sense -- don't most fires occur late at night?

Answer: Actually, past history has shown that 65-70% of the Fire/EMS runs in Plymouth Township are between 8 am and 8 pm. We set up the Firefighter schedule based on this history, and 8 am to 8 pm was when the Township needs the most coverage.

Question: Do I still call 9-1-1 for medical emergencies, and if so, who will respond?

Answer: Yes, you should always call 9-1-1 for police, fire and medical emergencies, just as you have in the past. There has been some misinformation over medical emergencies, and we want to assure you that all calls will be handled in the same manner as before the Fire Department reorganization. The Fire Department and Huron Valley Ambulance (HVA) will continue to handle medical emergency runs in the Township.

HVA is a respected leader in emergency medical services, maintaining their headquarters in the City of Plymouth, and HVA

Paramedics (the highest EMS licensure) are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All HVA services require no government subsidy and are not funded by any taxes.

Question: I've also heard there has been an increase in the number of vehicle break-ins in the Township recently. Is that true?

Answer: While the crime rate overall is down in Plymouth Township, the number of vehicle break-ins has increased slightly with the growth of personal electronics such as cell phones, laptops and GPS devices. Plymouth Township police officers are always on the watch for theft or any other any kind of illegal activity, but residents can help in reducing these types of thefts.

- Remove all valuables from your vehicle and lock your doors at all times
- Locked doors could deter a thief looking for quick "in and out" vehicle access
- Park your vehicle in your garage and lock the garage door
- If you must leave valuables in your vehicle, place them in the trunk or out of sight
- Report all suspicious activity, including unexplained noises

If you have any questions, or would like more information on keeping your vehicle safe, we encourage you to contact Plymouth Township Police at (734) 354-3232.

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR'S LETTER

Rising to the challenges of 2012, with our sights set higher for 2013



Township Supervisor
Richard Reaume

Happy New Year to all Plymouth Township residents and businesses! We have so much to be thankful for as we head into a new year. It is the hard work, dedication and spirit of everyone in this community that makes Plymouth Township such a great place to live, work and play! As part of my commitment to keep you informed, I would like to take a brief look back at 2012 and then focus on our major goals and initiatives for 2013.

2012...Tough Times, Tough Decisions

2012 is the year we turned the corner on what was arguably one of the most financially difficult periods in the Township's history. Despite all the challenges, with the necessary cost-cutting and rightsizing the Township ended 2012 with a balanced budget and a comfortable "rainy-day" fund. We were also proud to be among less than 1% of Michigan Townships awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Tough times called for tough measures, and everyone stepped up to help. We have reduced our expenditures by \$1.6 million over the past four years and the Township General Fund balance was over \$3 million. So even though times were tough, we weathered the storm well and I am very confident that working together we have an even brighter future ahead!

The Year Ahead...2013

This year we will continue to have a very strong focus on economic development, building on our financial strength as well as improving the lifestyle of residents and businesses in Plymouth Township.

We will maintain our solid "pro business" and job creation stance and be even more proactive in recruiting new companies, bringing in new advanced technology jobs and working with existing businesses to expand their operations.

There will be a continued push for saving money by consolidating or sharing services and/or purchases with other communities. Last year the township saved over \$300,000 through shared services and in 2013 we will evaluate the possibility of additional shared services opportunities.

As always, I welcome your feedback. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me by email at rreaume@plymouthtp.org or (734) 354-3201.

Sincerely,

Richard Reaume

Richard Reaume
Township Supervisor

**DID YOU
KNOW ?**

In 2012, Plymouth Township saved over \$300,000 by sharing services with other communities. We will continue to look for ways to reduce expenses by sharing services in 2013 and beyond.

Charter Township of Plymouth

WINTER 2013



Charter Township of Plymouth
9955 N Haggerty Road
Plymouth, MI 48170-4673

PRSR STD
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PLYMOUTH, MI
Permit No. 218

Attention Postal Customer
Plymouth, MI 48170

Plymouth Township Board of Trustees

Richard Reaume, Supervisor
Ron Edwards, Treasurer
Nancy Conzelman, Clerk
Kay Arnold, Trustee
Charles Curmi, Trustee
Bob Doroshewitz, Trustee
Michael Kelly, Trustee

rreaume@plymouthtp.org
redwards@plymouthtp.org
nconzelman@plymouthtp.org
karnold@plymouthtp.org
ccurmi@plymouthtp.org
bdoroshewitz@plymouthtp.org
mkelly@plymouthtp.org

Postal Carriers: Please deliver
to PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP
RESIDENCES ONLY

FISCALLY FIT!

Plymouth Township receives high Standard & Poor's bond rating

We all know how challenging this economy has been the past few years, so it is good news that Standard & Poor's (S&P) recently rated the Township 'AA', a very favorable standing in terms of its financial management and creditworthiness. The 'AA' rating is a reflection of several positive factors within the Township:

- Continued maintenance of very strong reserves
- Moderate debt burden

S&P went on to report that "despite decreasing property values and limited growth in state revenue sharing, Plymouth Township continues to report positive financial operations. There was a \$363,000 surplus, which increased the "rainy day" general fund balance to \$3.4 million. The spending reductions implemented immediately on the onset of the recession have successfully offset falling revenues.

Comparison of 2012 Tax Rates:

Township / City	Tax Rate	Taxable Value	Yearly Taxes	Difference
Plymouth Township	29.4189	\$112,900	\$3,321.39	
Northville Township	32.2273	\$112,900	\$3,638.46	\$317.07
Canton Township	35.6413	\$112,900	\$4,023.90	\$702.51
City of Livonia	36.8055	\$112,900	\$4,155.34	\$833.95
City of Plymouth	41.4933	\$112,900	\$4,684.59	\$1,363.20
City of Northville	41.6733	\$112,900	\$4,704.92	\$1,383.53